

Cochrane Pickleball Club Board Meeting Minutes

Date: April 2, 2025 **Location:** Via ZOOM Link

Attendees: Greg Young, Catherine Burdett, Brett Mackey, Val Ball, Mary Ellen Martin, Jerry Shannon. **Absent:** Ken Little, Bob Marescaux

1. **Call to Order:** Greg Young called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM MST, 6:31 PM DST.
2. **Review and Acceptance of Minutes of March 4th, 2025 Board Meeting:** Val Ball moved to accept the Minutes, seconded by Mary Ellen Martin. All in favour. Motion passed.
3. **Membership Engagement (Out of Town Visitors: Continued):** After a member discussion initiated by Mary Ellen Martin which considered topics such as liability issues, complications with waivers, difficulty policing the courts, and all the new matters we are dealing with, the overall consensus was for this season to have members bringing guests utilize the public courts and not the CPC courts. Jerry Shannon motioned: For the 2025 season, Club members bringing guests or out of town visitors should use the public courts for play. This motion was seconded by Greg Young. All were in favour. Motion passed.
It was also suggested that if guests want to guarantee a public court, they can book through the Town of Cochrane.
Action Item: Mary Ellen Martin to research and verify correct email/contact information on Town court bookings, and write a blurb for the Website/Facebook page about guest court bookings and forward to Catherine Burdett for posting.
Before advertising for new members in the Cochrane Eagle, it was also decided that at this point in time, the Club would promote via social media first (Facebook, CPC Website).
4. **Player Development:** Mary Ellen Martin requested permission to print volunteer handouts and lesson plans at Staples. Members agreed that small expenses like that didn't require a vote, and just a submission of receipts to the Treasurer. Board members also addressed how to handle youth members in introductory lessons, deciding to group them separately from adult members. Mary Ellen provided an update on Player Development, including changes to the program name, coach recruitment, and the upcoming coach's meeting on May 20th. She also mentioned that three local coaches are on board to offer private lessons, which members can

book directly. The coaches' names are Gary Cooper, Claudia Solito, and Shawn Radford.

Action Item: Brett Mackey to contact Principals at Cochrane schools regarding Youth Program promotion in May newsletter and displaying Club posters in the schools.

5. **Club Championship/Charity Classic Tournament:** Greg Young proposed September 12th to 14th, 2025 for the Club event (double knockout) and August 18th to 20th, 2025 for the Charity event (round robin format). Adding singles matches to the club championship is also being considered and would be an "open" event. More details to follow in the months ahead.

6. **Sponsorship: Black Knight/Town Protocols/Membership Sponsorship Offers:** Catherine Burdett reported that the Town's sponsorship strategy/policy is not expected to be drafted until later this year. Once the draft is completed, it will need to go through the Council approval process. Given that this is an election year and allowing time for the new council to settle in and familiarize themselves with the details, it is anticipated that the timeline for developing sponsorship opportunities will extend into the spring of 2026.

Brett Mackey and Catherine Burdett updated the board members on Black Knight Paddles, stating that club member Paul Shoebridge has offered club members a 15% discount on these Canadian made products, and that the Youth Program would be accessing Black Knight paddles and mandatory eyewear from Canada Wide Sport at a previously agreed discount. Catherine suggested that the Club should open the field up to all members who might want to sell pickleball related products to other members. A short discussion followed which led to the following motion:

Catherine Burdett motioned to allow CPC members permission to promote products to other members with details to be determined; seconded by Val Ball. All were in favour. The motion passed.

7. **Town of Cochrane Facility Agreement (for Interim Quigley Courts):** Catherine Burdett addressed the agreement document between the Town of Cochrane and the Cochrane Pickleball Club. She pointed out various clauses that require revision.
Action Item: Catherine to ask Les Franke to go back to the Town to propose rewording of Contract to address the Club's concerns.

Once it is revised, we would go ahead with the signing of the contract, with Greg Young, CPC President, to sign the Facility Agreement. The Club will have Ken Little

inspect the Quigley Courts prior to the May 12th opening with a Town Rep. The Town will again have someone unlock and lock the gate each day.

8. **Construction Committee: Update on Club Questions:** Deferred to next meeting due to Ken Little's absence.
9. **Health and Safety Committee: First Aid Training Update:** Val Ball presented details about a CPR and AED Certification Course offered in Cochrane, costing \$70 per person for a blended online and in-person format. The course would need 5 to 12 participants. The Board discussed gauging interest from Club members for the viability of such a course at the members' cost and also to create a list of currently certified members.
Val Ball motioned that the Club offer the CPR/AED course to our members at their own expense; seconded by Brett Mackey. All in favour. Motion passed.
Action item: Val Ball will create a post for the CPC Website regarding the course asking for potential registrants, as well as polling members as to who is CPR/AED certified. This will be sent to Catherine Burdett.
10. **Court Reserve (Upcoming Key Dates): Seasonal Activation 4/1/25, Target Data Import 4/15/25, Digital Cafe 4/29/25:** Catherine Burdett updated the Board on the status of Court Reserve. The cost for the first month is \$77, and she is working on building out the schedule for our two court sites. The target date of import status is the week of April 15th with a live date shortly thereafter for all new member activations. A Digital Cafe ("Help Cafe") will take place on April 29th for members not familiar with the site. Details to follow.
11. **Update on CPC Website Schedules:** Catherine Burdett reported that both the Quigley Courts and Greystone Courts schedules are now posted on the CPC website. A reminder that Opening Day for Quigley is May 12th with programming in place.
12. **Pickleball Alberta Referee Clinic:** Greg Young reported that the clinic has been booked for Monday, May 12th and Tuesday, May 13th at a private room at the Humane Society in Cochrane. There is NO cost for the clinic and it needs 8 new registrants, not members who took the referee clinic last year at the courts. Registrants are asked to bring their own bag lunch. Participants will be expected to officiate at the Club Championship and/or the Charity Classic this season. It was also suggested that those who took referee instruction last season need to be supported and mentored.

Action Item: Catherine Burdett to post details of the PA sponsored Referee Clinic on Court Reserve.

Action Item: Greg Young will reach out to previous referee clinic participants about mentorship.

13. Volunteer Outreach: Brett Mackey reported that the Volunteer Outreach emails went out a few days ago to both active and non-active members, and already volunteers are starting to step up and contact Committee Leads. Catherine stated that there are still some gaps in Round Robin Captains even though there are some returning volunteers. Needs are high in the Mens' Divisions, she noted. We will continue to reach out to members as the need is great this season as there are so many roles to fill.

14. Update on FB/CPC Website for new membership promotion/website "clean up": Catherine Burdett reported that Joanne Ferster will continue to do minor changes to our website, and Catherine has secured the services of club member Linda Huot who eventually will be taking over from Joanne. Linda will be learning Wordpress and will work with Joanne and Catherine to expand and update the website, with a possible redesign in the future.

15. Custom Club Gear: Catherine Burdett spoke about a Canadian online shopping store for Club gear, branded with the Club crest or logo on it. It is called **URstore**, and the nice thing about it is a member can order individually and does not have to wait to be a part of a bulk order.

Action Item: Catherine Burdett to reach out to the rep of URstore to discuss working with CPC.

16. Season Opener: Date? Team Challenge? MLP?: Greg Young stated that the most efficient way to use the four Quigley courts is a team challenge with 12 players per court as was done last year. The date for this is set for Wednesday, May 7th.

Action Item: Catherine to speak to Les Franke to approach the Town to book the courts for that date.

17. Youth Ratings? Brett shared a conversation that he had in the last month with a parent of older teens who will be in the Youth Program this season. The parent brought up the situation of him and his wife wanting to play with their children in a programmed event such as a round robin, or leveled rec play. Brett told the Board that it got him thinking about ratings for youth members, and if it would be possible for a skilled youth player to get a 2.5 or 3.0 rating or higher, and play with older

members. Brett stated presently the Youth Program is taking kids from 8 to 18. At present , the top professional player in the world is 18 years old. (She has held that ranking for the last two or three years). She would be qualified as a “youth” in our Club. There was some interesting discussion on the topic among members. How well would a young person be received by older players at a Round Robin? Are we marginalizing a young person by not allowing him/her to play if they have the ability? The need for respect for all members regardless of age. The importance of our Code of Conduct. Certainly further discussion is needed going forward.

Action item: Brett Mackey to contact Les Franke and Steve Katulka to discuss the matter of ratings for Youth members.

18. Financial Update: In Bob Marescaux’s absence, Brett Mackey read Bob’s report which stated: Chequing Account: \$54.90, Savings Account: \$24, 479.02, GIC—New Courts: \$298,220.03.

Action Item: Bob Marescaux to complete Stripe Integration for Court Reserve.

19. Set Date and Time of next meeting: Members discussed having an operational meeting in two or three weeks at Spray Lakes SC, date to be determined, the week of April 21st to 24th, 2025.

20. Adjournment: Greg Young motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:58 PM MST, 7:58 PM DST, Val Ball seconded. All in favour. Motion carried.

Minutes prepared by Brett Mackey: CPC Secretary